



*A Helping
Hand*
Mandarin
中文视角



NORD ANGLIA
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
DUBAI

Be Ambitious

学而不思则罔，
思而不学则殆。

Mandarin

世界未来的语言—中文



873 million people speak Chinese Mandarin, making it the most widely spoken first language in the world. Through studying Mandarin, your child will not only learn to read, write and speak the language, but they will come to better understand Chinese people and their culture. As a second language learner your child will obtain a











































unique skill, as Mandarin is not widely learnt despite the number of Mandarin speakers in the world. As the Chinese economy continues to grow there will be more and more demand for Mandarin speakers, offering your child excellent experiences later in life. Mandarin is also one of the six official languages of the United Nations.

History of Chinese Characters

汉字的历史

Chinese characters are a unique feature of the language. The characters originate from pictures and the history of their formation is long, dating back over 5000 years. Characters are monosyllabic morphemes, they represent the smallest unit of meaning and are constructed by individual strokes. The most complete Chinese dictionaries account for a total

of nearly 70,000 characters, of which 10,000 are in more frequent use. Among these, roughly 600 characters are pictograms, a stylized drawing of the objects they represent. The pictograms are generally among the oldest characters. The following examples illustrate the evolution of Chinese characters through a long history.

Oracle Bone Script	Seal Script	Clerical Script	Semi-Cursive Script	Cursive Script	Regular Script (Traditional)	Regular Script (Simplified)	Pinyin	Meaning
							rì	Sun
							yuè	Moon
							shān	Mountain
							shuǐ	Water
							yǔ	Rain
							mù	Wood

An average educated Chinese will use, read and write around 5,000-7,000 characters. As a second language learner your child will need to be able to read between 3000 – 5000 characters to fully understand a Chinese newspaper or website.

Mandarin at NAS Dubai

NAS 迪拜中文部

At NAS Dubai your child can start learning Mandarin from Nursery. Each student is assessed to ensure they are placed within the correct ability group.

Throughout EYFS children receive three 30 minute lessons per week structured as beginner and advanced lessons. Our beginner groups are for children who are being introduced to the language for the first time. Our advanced groups are for children who have been learning the language already or have Mandarin as part of their family background.

As students progress through the school, the duration of each lesson increases. Students in the primary and secondary school are divided into three ability groups: beginners intermediate and advanced.

Beginner students are learning the language for the first time. Intermediate students have learnt the language for a minimum of one year. Advanced students have prior knowledge of different areas of the language through family, previous education or exposure while living in a country where the language is spoken.

To complement your child's learning experience the Mandarin department offers additional noncurriculum time. These times take the form of the following:

- CCAs
- Library and reading resources
- International and local trips



Mandarin students at NAS Dubai will develop the four skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening while studying a variety of topics. Within their ability groups each child is offered personalized and differentiated learning and support.

At the beginning of each year students will receive a textbook and workbook appropriate to their ability level.

The books will support their learning within class as well as assist with their home learning.

Beginner students textbook: Easy Steps to Chinese series or Chinese Made Easy series.

Intermediate students textbook: Easy Steps to Chinese series.

Advanced students textbook: Xiao Xue Hua Wen, Yuwen, or Easy Steps to Chinese Series.

The HSK standard

汉语水平考试



The HSK acronym stands for 汉(hàn)语(yǔ) 水(shuǐ)平(píng) 考(kǎo)试(shì) – Chinese Proficiency Test. The HSK standard and the HSK proficiency test were launched by the Hanban/Confucius Institute Headquarters, affiliated with the Chinese Ministry of Education, in an effort to standardize and promote worldwide Chinese language learning and teaching.

NAS Dubai is an authorised HSK test centre and it is the only international school in UAE that can administer HSK tests to NAS students and students of Chinese across UAE.

HSK: WHY?

The HSK test assesses students’ comprehensive language and communication ability and provides an additional qualification in Mandarin from Key Stage 2 onwards. The HSK ensures:

- ✓ Standardization → six proficiency levels, externally assessed qualification.
- ✓ Transparency → released by Hanban/Confucius Institute and recognized worldwide.
- ✓ Accountability → of progress and assessments for both teachers and students.

HSK: WHAT?

The new HSK consists of a writing test and a speaking test, which are independent of each other. There are six levels of writing tests namely the HSK Level I, HSK Level II, HSK Level III, HSK Level IV, HSK Level V and HSK level VI. There are three levels of speaking tests, namely the HSK Beginner level, HSK Intermediate level, and HSK Advanced level.

WRITING TEST	SPEAKING TEST
HSK Level I	HSK Beginner Level
HSK Level II	
HSK Level III	HSK Intermediate Level
HSK Level IV	
HSK Level V	HSK Advanced Level
HSK Level VI	

The different levels of the new HSK are similar to some of the levels in the Chinese Language Proficiency Scales for Speakers of Other Languages (CLPS) and the Common European Framework of Reference (CEF).

The Common European Framework of Reference for Languages is a guideline used to describe the achievements of learners of foreign languages across Europe and, increasingly, in other countries. It was put together by the Council of Europe as the main part of the project ‘Language Learning for European Citizenship’ between 1989 and 1996. Its main aim is to provide a method of learning, teaching and assessing which

applies to all languages in Europe. The Common European Framework for Languages identifies six levels of proficiency grouped into three broad divisions.

Level A1 (Breakthrough), Level A2 (Way Stage or Elementary), Level B1 (Threshold or Intermediate), Level B2 (Upper Intermediate), Level C1 (Advanced), Level C2 (Mastery of Proficiency).

HSK TEST LEVEL	COMMON EUROPEAN FRAMEWORK LEVELS		CHINESE VOCABULARY KNOWLEDGE	AVERAGE STUDY TIME
HSK Level I	A1	Beginner User	80 - 150	6 months
HSK Level II	A2		300	1 year
HSK Level III	B1	Independent User	600	1.5 years
HSK Level IV	B2		1200	2.5 years
HSK Level V	C1	Proficient User	3000	3 years
HSK Level VI	C2		5000	Over 3 years

HSK Level I students understand and use very simple Chinese phrases, meet basic needs for communication and possess the ability to further their Chinese language studies.

HSK Level II students have an excellent grasp of basic Chinese and can communicate in simple and routine tasks requiring a direct exchange of information on familiar and routine matters.

HSK Level III students can communicate in Chinese at a basic level in their daily, academic and professional lives. They can manage most communication in Chinese when travelling to China.

HSK Level IV students can converse in Chinese on a wide range of topics and are able to communicate fluently with native Chinese speakers.

HSK Level V students can read Chinese newspapers and magazines, enjoy Chinese films and plays, and give a full-length speech in Chinese.

HSK Level VI students can easily comprehend written and spoken information in Chinese and can effectively express themselves in Chinese, both orally and on paper.

HSK: HOW and WHEN?

When a student joins the Mandarin programme at NAS Dubai they are assessed using the HSK criteria, to establish the level they will continue to work at.

Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 students have the opportunity to gain the HSK certificate at the end of one or two school years depending on their level of ability. The HSK certificate constitutes a very valuable passport both for their academic and professional future.

Edexcel IGCSE Mandarin

汉语 IGCSE

At NAS Dubai languages are a core part of the IGCSE programme. Mandarin students can sit the IGCSE Mandarin either at the end of Year 11 or earlier depending of their ability. Advanced students will have the opportunity to gain additional qualifications.

Course Content

The curriculum develops the four skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing in a range of familiar and practical contexts, for a variety of purposes, using a range of vocabulary and grammar structures.

Students will focus on five topic areas:

- House, home & daily routine
- Education & employment
- Social activities, fitness & health
- Home & abroad
- Media & the internet

Course Assessment

The IGCSE Chinese exam papers are as follows;

Paper 1:

Listening (25%) 40 minute + 5 minutes reading time

The total number of marks for the paper is 50.

Paper 2:

Reading and writing (50%) 1 hour 30 minutes

The total number of marks for the paper is 60, with 30 marks for reading and 30 marks for writing.

Paper 3:

Speaking (25%) Maximum 10 minutes

Section A: Conversation based on a picture

Section B: Conversations

The total number of marks for the paper is 40.

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How to Support your Child at Home

学习资源

In our experience, the most successful Mandarin students have parents who show a keen interest in what their children are learning and try to support their enthusiasm when learning a new language. Here are some tips on how to support your children in their Mandarin studies.

Read, Read, Read!

Set up a Chinese corner on your bookshelf and fill this with anything in Chinese. Then encourage your children to follow these recommendations to get the most out of their reading time:

- Read any type of book
- Choose a favourite book and with a dictionary, translate the sentences and try to describe what happens in your own words
- Read about your hobby
- Read the news in Chinese, many international newspaper now have a Chinese page online
- Read children's books in order to consolidate the sentence structures and understand how vocabulary is used in context

Go Online!

Use the list of online resources supplied by the NAS Mandarin department inclusive of games, apps and songs to practise with your children at home and visit the websites below:

- Online Chinese Radio:
<http://multilingualbooks.com/online-radio-chinese.html>
- Online Chinese teachers:
<http://www.italki.com/learn-chinese/en-us>
- Language partners:
<http://www.mylanguageexchange.com/Learn/Chinese.asp>
<http://www.language-exchanges.org/>
- Chinese Podcasts
- Watch TV shows, TV ads and short videos on Fluentu.com
- Subscribe to ChinesePod.com to improve your child's listening and speaking skills. Lessons differentiated per ability level are available.

Play Games!

Purchase the Chinese flashcards from the NAS Dubai school shop and use them to play games.

- Hide and Seek - hide the flashcards around the house, task your child to find them and then guess the meaning
- What's Missing? - spread flashcards in front of your child, they close their eyes and you take one or more away. Ask your child to tell you which one is missing in Mandarin.
- Flashcard Musical Chairs - place two flashcards on two chairs. When the music (or clapping) stops, say one of the words in Chinese. Your child should sit on the correct one. Best played with 3 or more players!
- Cups and Cards - using three cups, hide one flashcard under one cup, then move the cups around. Your child should guess where the card is and tell you its pronunciation and meaning

- Label your house: using flashcards or post-it notes, label objects or place key vocabulary around the house to help memorization
- Create place mats for breakfast and dinner with key vocabulary and grammar that your child can see over and over.

Look It Up!

Install a pop-up English translator to look up words instantly such as Chinese Reader by www.mdbg.net, Zhongwen for Chrome and Perapera for Firefox.

Watch It!

Watch movies in Chinese. English or Chinese subtitles will help your understanding of each sequence. Watching the movie over and over will increase the chances to absorb new vocabulary and new sentence structures.

Chinese is a very challenging language for any learner at any age, but it is an amazingly rewarding experience to be able to decipher a code unknown to many.

Never Give Up! 加油!



HELPING OTHERS TO BE THE BEST THEY CAN BE

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